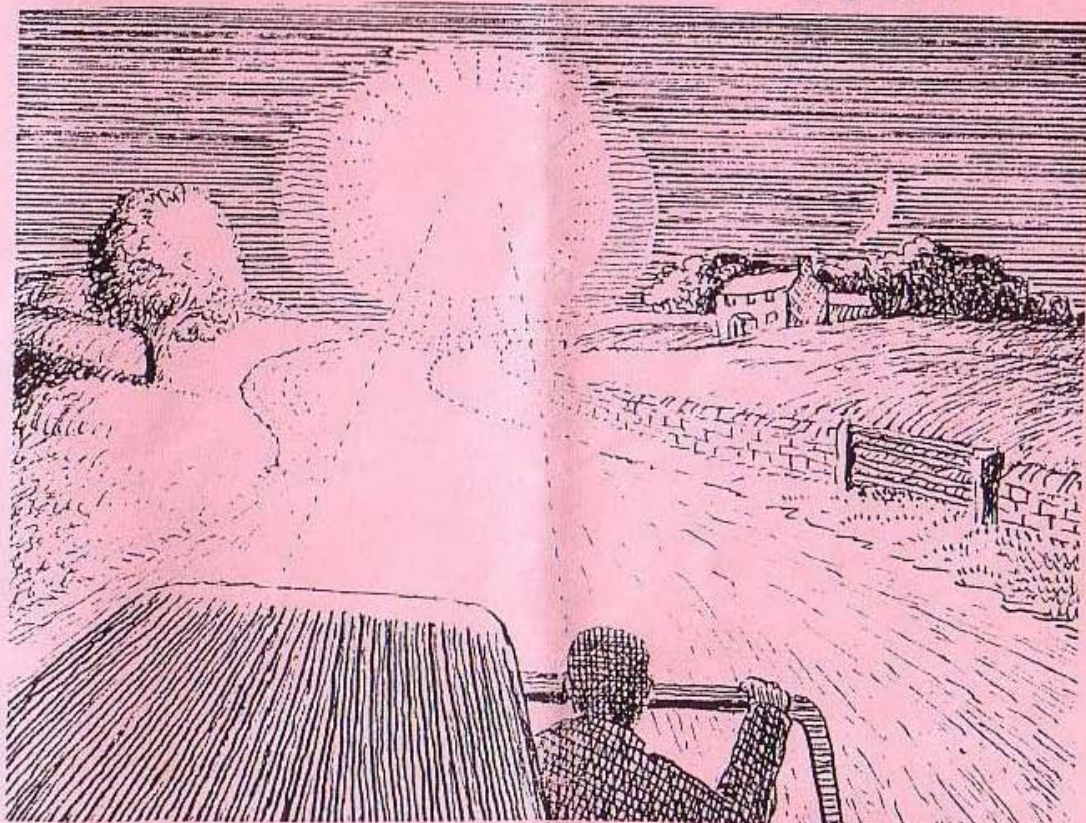


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

150
AUGUST
1991



All the news, views and up to date cases £6 for six
Editor: Jenny Randles Cover: Roy Sandbach

CONTENT: Usual features plus... p. 4 ... circles update ... P. 5 - 8
Elsewhere, reviews ... P. 9 American reports ... P.10 - 12 ... Cases from
Cheshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, South Yorkshire ...including An
alien jaywalker and Midlands invasion 1991 ... P 12 -16 Case Histories...
Rendlesham revisited, Horse sense in Bedfordshire, Blowing bubbles in the
West Midlands and the Manchester Airport UFO encounter

37 HEATHBANK ROAD CHEADLE HEATH STOCKPORT CHESHIRE ENGLAND SK3 0UP

J. R. Comments . . . Noted author John Spencer made some interesting points in a hard hitting interview in the July 1991 issue of UFO Times. Basically he defended his two recent books against the battering they have received at the hands of much of the UFO press by asking the important question - WHO are we attempting to get through to?

My own reviews of both John's books; 'The UFO Encyclopedia' (Apr) and 'The definitive casebook' (Summer) were very mild compared with some of the flak that has headed his way. Indeed I was even criticised by one journal editor for participating in a BUFORA whitewash of the worth of the encyclopedia. This was not the case, but I dispute John's suggestion of UFO reviews being little more than rival authors with vested interests saying how they would have written the book far better - NOT debate of content.

In my opinion, when I review a book in NUN it is my responsibility to tell readers whether they should part with increasingly large sums of money. NUNs readership ranges from well known researchers to complete novices, but mostly comprises enthusiasts with little practical experience and yet a great fascination for our subject. So I have to bear that in mind. I would certainly never compromise in order to present a favourable review, be (consciously) critical so as to look superior or - indeed - refrain from discussing problems even if the book is written by a colleague or a friend. That would be a betrayal of the purpose of a book review.

In the case of these two contentious books, my position is that John Spencer has tried hard to produce copy that appeals to the hungry enthusiast and evidently not aimed them at the experienced UFOlogist. However, it would have been wrong not to point out the extremely difficult usability problems of his encyclopedia or the factual errors I saw in the casebook. For the record I found this a pleasant coffee table book and - as I stated in the review - am sure it will do well in the market it is directed towards. John Spencer claims that all UFO books have errors (no doubt true) and he does not like reviewers who attempt to 'score points' by referring to these. Errors in my books (notably a quite serious one in 'The Pennine UFO Mystery' over the Adamaki case dates) have been pointed out in reviews to me. That was beneficial. They are things that can always be corrected in future (indeed SHOULD be corrected) and I do not think authors should complain if these are discussed in reviews by ones peers. After all, our work is set before others. We know it is not going to be perfect, and whilst nit picking is I agree frustrating it is sometimes necessary.

Of course, it is difficult sometimes to know where to stop. For example, in my view, the highly successful book 'Circular Evidence' had many faults. I have never refrained from saying so. I believe there was an obligation to do that and whilst others might regard it as jealousy or pure spite because the book has sold 250,000 copies these have no relevance to my judgement. 'The Crop Circle Enigma', for instance, whilst not reviewed in NUN (because the publishers didn't oblige and the limited space for reviews in NUN is always given to those who do) was - in my view - a good book. It had quite a number of things in it I disagreed with, but was well edited by Ralph Noyes into a generally fair volume.

When you happen to see problems with a book that is going to influence thousands of people in shops and libraries - to remain silent in a review would be to compound the problems identified in the first place. After all media reviewers are going to have no way of knowing whether a book in our field is on the ball or not. Who else but fellow researchers can point out such things? But then we authors, of course, tend to over-react to reviews.

On a broader level John argues that he deliberately aimed his two recent books at the 'new reader' market in order to attract people to our subject. He feels reviews should have recognised this. I believe my review of his Casebook did; although a complex encyclopedia seemed to presuppose interest of the reader in the first place. Although the fact that its sales may imply otherwise, I do not believe this alters my basic criticism of that book which remains valid (in my opinion) whoever it was aimed at.

However, one is always going to disagree with something about a book and it serves no useful purpose, as John says, just to suggest how YOU might have written it. One can only comment on the book as it WAS written.

John seems to feel that most UFO books are epistles written by UFOlogists TO other UFOlogists and so hit a small market and are of little effectiveness. He wanted to go beyond that and strike out towards a new group of prospective enthusiasts. There is no harm in that - indeed its the main reason I can live with my books almost always being serialised by the tabloid press (the Sunday Mirror etc). I know that what I write will only reach a few thousand in the normal way and the tabloid coverage spreads the word. I do not particularly like what they do to 'popularise' and attract a different group of readers (eg 'Abduction' ending up almost unrecognisable when portrayed in the Star). But it is sometimes necessary and John is right here. Think about it; if only one in a thousand such readers go on to become a long term and dedicated UFOlogist the rewards justify the means.

BOTH types of book are needed in my opinion. I know that from pure commercial considerations if I churned out a book like 'The UFO Conspiracy' every year it would reach a lot of people and make my beleaguered bank manager far happier than he presently is, but I am not sure the price I would have to pay in my mind would be worth it. As a UFOlogist for 20 years now I feel an obligation to explore through all my writings the often unpalatable truths of our subject and say things that I know 90% of those without a deep grounding in UFO reality don't actually want to hear. As a writer this is probably stupid and the temptation to write popular books that talk of aliens, crashed spaceships and massive conspiracies in deference to the day to day mundanity of our subject can get irresistible. But as a UFOlogist it is hard not to see this as a sell out and my overwhelming belief that one must tell it like it is - even if that does mean few will want to know about WHAT it is - still usually wins the day.

I am not suggesting for a moment that John Spencer has sold out. Far from it, in fact, but I think we need to see the dangers on the road toward UFOlogical commerciality - in books AND in groups. At times being a writer AND a serious UFOlogist is not the most compatible relationship. Maybe John will be the one who can find the magic formula. I wish him Good luck.

NEWS ROUND UP:



:: Ken Higgins of SRUFO asks me to remind readers in Scotland of their meetings, activities and news-sheet. Those interested use the address on p.16

:: Eric Herr of PO Box 15044 San Diego California USA 92175 is offering \$20 (up to \$1000 max per person) for photocopies of case reports involving a magnetic compass or detector being effected by a UFO. If you know of a case write first to make sure its not on his data base already.



CIRCLES UPDATE

Another summer of cereological mayhem is drawing to a close and as the winter nights draw in the magazines prepare to digest the news and discoveries. I will review the events in depth in my regular column for The Crop Watcher, so here are just a few highlights (or lowlights?)

There is little doubt this will be known as the 'year of the hoax'. It is pleasing to see that many cereologists now appear to support the claim I made last winter that well over 50% of cases in the past two or three summers are the result of trickery. 1991 was full of them. Several were arrested. Some were caught in the act by circle site watchers. Ridiculous patterns started to appear - from company logos to the message 'Greetings Earthlings' (on the Isle of Wight!) In Germany law students filled a field with a beautiful array of geometric designs with the simple method of using tramlines to enter and stilts to reach virgin bits of corn. In the UK one agricultural college was playing games with another battling to see who could come up with the best formation.

There is now virtually no doubt in my mind that much (if not all) of the complex patterns we have seen are the result of hoaxing. In my view there may well not even be any real crop circle phenomenon beyond simple circles, doublets, triplets and rings etc. However, I know that view still remains pretty unpopular with all sides of the circle debate.

This summer so far (mid August) there have been less cases occurring out of Wessex. A few have crept into Leicestershire and Northants (thanks to Ernie Still for a report on one single circle there) and a number of hoaxes in Nottinghamshire (thanks to Dave Clarke for his views on that). Aside from a couple of rogues on Humberside most of the 120 or so (substantially down on 1990) have been in familiar haunts.

An excellent report from Robert Moore describes a ring (very similar to that at Peover in Cheshire last year) which turned up at Cannington in Somerset on 21 June. He considers this yet another likely hoax.

The scientific side of the story got the biggest look in ever this year, with both Ohtsuki and Kikuchi arriving from Japan to back up Meaden and extensive promotion for their work and the Operation Blue Hill exercise mounted by the meteorologists. A significant 'defection' occurred also when Rita Gould, a leading cereologist who stated she had formerly believed in a guiding intelligence concluded that the plasma vortex (plus hoaxing) was the cause after she and two colleagues witnessed a spectacular event near Avebury in early July. She was convinced what she saw was indeed a vortex. This incident has sparked major controversy in the subject, but I have to say that Rita appeared with me on a 40 minute Radio Leicester debate on 7 August and she came over in an extremely commendable and no nonsense way.

Things such as this, coupled with THREE separate laboratory experiments (two in Japan and one in the USA) - using a wind tunnel, computer simulation and artificial creation of circles via a lab produced plasma vortex - have - in my mind anyhow - left the basic solution almost beyond doubt to those prepared to look at the evidence and judge from that.

The mystical side of cereology has had little attention; although David Icke (surprise, surprise) entered the fray, visiting a circle and claiming the 'Godhead' was inviting people into fields to send thoughts of peace and love...not exactly what you'll get from farmers if you do so!!!

FOR YOUR PERUSAL

Major articles Elsewhere



UFO Times (With BUFORA Sub; Ste 1 The Leys 2C Leyton Rd Harpenden AL5 2TL)
 May - Anthony North has an interesting short piece on reality...Jul - is a bumper special with a detailed circles report from Paul Fuller, the controversial John Spencer interview, a full reprint of Steuart Campbell's 'explanation' of the Peter Day film, plus lots more.

MUFON Journal (\$30, for 12, 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas 78155 USA)
 Has gone crop circle daft with two recent covers devoted and articles ranging from 'the mystic view' to 'how to measure them' and links with sound energy. In fact just about the only thing MUFON haven't done is report vortex data in the same way. As usual many wildy varying UFO articles also.

IUR (\$30, for 6, 2457 West Peterson Chicago Illinois 60659 USA)
 Redresses the balance with a piece (Mar) by Chris Rutkowski on Canadian Circle research, which is perceptive and to the point, responded to by JR (May). Mar also has an interesting Australian abduction researched from the fantasy prone personality perspective by Keith Basterfield. On the ball.

Oribiter (No price quoted, for 6, from PO Box 652 Reading MA 01867 USA)
 As usual two issues which reprint letters and press stories with wry and perceptive commentary to really help you see American UFology today.

Just Cause (\$20, for 4, PO Box 218 Coventry CT 06238 USA)
 Best of the American 'cover-up' magazines takes a sensible look at what goes on in this field. Includes US intelligence data on the Belgian wave.

NUFOC 3 (\$20, for 4, Langstraat 19 B-3830 Wellen Belgium)
 Speaking of which this Belgian journal covers the wave and other activity and the big plus is that its in English. Recommended reading.

Phenomena (120FF for 6, Post Box 324 13611 Aix-en-Provence 1 France)
 I've not quite worked out how or why yet, but this and Ovni Presence now seem to be issued separately by the same group. Easily the best French language news and articles on what goes on there. Excellent interviews with leading politicians and UFologists. If you read French, dont hesitate.

Eurofon News (1300FB for 6, 54 Princes Marijkestraat 5961 CH Horst Holland)
 In French also but an even more detailed look at UFology in Europe, often features the 'best of' translated from other countries but very strong on presentation of Dutch and Belgian case histories.

Fortean Times 58 (£2 in stores, £12 for 6, 20 Paul St Frome Somerset BA11)
 New glossy look - even in some small corner stores now and orderable from all newsagents, the same FT as ever. You don't have any excuse now. Buy it!

Strange 7 (£13.50 for 4 to 'Mark Chorvinsky' Box 2246 Rockville MD 20847)
 American equivalent of FT with good UK subscriber offer - above - but more article based. This is always excellent stuff and has lots of interest.

The Skeptic (£12 for 6, PO Box 475 Manchester M60 2TH)

I don't reckon you can afford to miss this well produced magazine. It's from the skeptics movement but often has reasoned papers on all aspects of the paranormal, including UFOs every few issues, plus snips of news critically treated. If you consider yourself objective, you're not till you read this!

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



Alien Liaison: The Ultimate Secret Tim Good Century h/b 242 pp £14.99

I might almost be tempted to be wicked and say, nice book shame about the content, but that would probably qualify as an egotistical review! In truth this is an excellently written book on a subject which one may arguably feel should not have been worth writing about in the first place.

To his credit, Tim offers a well reasoned presentation, with scales inevitably tipped towards the acceptance of the amazing story he outlines, but which nonetheless is commendably fair in places. He pulls no punches expressing the problems he sees with things like the MJ-12 documents. Since the last time I expressed my views on MJ-12 in an interview it ended up proving very costly, I'll quit while I'm ahead on that. Nonetheless, Good argues that even if such documents do prove to be (how shall we put it?) problematical, the story within them is essentially accurate.

He says much the same on other matters; eg the famous Billy Meier photos. He reports two meetings with the man, but seems to say that even if some of the photos do turn out to be dubious he still considers the witness to be sincere and some of the photographs are probably genuine.

This sort of thing might impress you merely as honesty (and I'm sure it's that) or reflect a seat on the fence. I guess it rather depends how you look at it. Of course, if you have trouble accomodating these more standard UFOlogical items of recent extra-terrestrial lore then you will struggle to do more than run screaming from the discussion of the truly avant garde side of American UFOlogy, with its underground bases, secret treaties with aliens, crashed spaceships and bodies by the truckload and 'Man from Uncle' plotlines. However, whether you believe any of this or not, it has to be said that Tim does a reasonable job of presenting the 'who says what' of such things and not too many of his personal beliefs intrude.

Ultimately, I have to say I did not find most of the claims within the book persuasive (although odd snippets did sneak up on me and I kept thinking about alternative scenarios in places...like 'what if they WANTED us to think this because they were really doing something else...'). The fact that the book allows even this flexibility is a plus.

Another plus is its simple style. Unlike 'Above Top Secret' (of which this is no sequel) you are not faced with hundreds of pages of Bible-like text, minute detail and documentation. This one is well referenced and indexed but it is shorter and flows far better AS an easy to read story. In fact, in many senses it is similar to last years 'Out There' by Howard Blum, but scores over that effort by virtue of Tim Good's superior knowledge of the UFO field. In fact, in my opinion, it is also a better written text.

In summary, I enjoyed this book by chewing to savour the taste rather than swallowing. We must hear the ET school and this is one of their better volumes in some years. You'll have no trouble finding it in shops, of course.

How to catch a Flying Saucer James Deem Houghton Mifflin h/b 192pp \$15.95

An absolute delight. Pity so few people will probably read it. This book is an attempt to provide teenage children with a primer in how to get involved within UFO studies. It is far and away the best book about UFOs written specifically for children that I have ever seen.

The author is an American and not a UFOlogist, but unlike some hacks who might have got a fair sized contract to do such a book and simply cobbled it together, Deem tried really hard and worked with several UFOlogists. He even flew to the UK from New York and accessed the NUFON files in Manchester - which few British researchers have bothered to do when putting a project together. Working also with CUFOS in the USA this gives the book an air of up to date accuracy and inside knowledge that many active UFOlogists probably couldn't have instilled. Also - whilst the book is American and this inevitably comes over, the addition of a British element within it is an important advantage. It means that this is much more agreeable and useful to a British audience than it might have been.

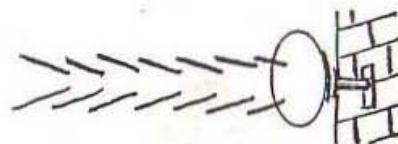
Unless it sells UK rights you might struggle to find this edition (except maybe via a mail order catalogue like Arcturus Books at PO Box 831383 Stone Mountain GA 30083-0023 - although incredibly I haven't even see it in their catalogue yet - WHY NOT CHAPS ?) But its worth the search, because I suspect even adults will find this an excellent primer to the world of UFO investigation. Let me put it this way, I wish BUFORA could afford to give me the money so we could buy every new prospective investigator a copy. I'm sure it would be money well spent.

An excellent and lively text is added to by a whole series of amusing cartoon style illustrations (from True Kelley). I really haven't purely enjoyed reading so non-prtetentious a UFO book in ages. Buy one as a Christmas present for the kids, but read it yourself before you wrap it up!

Just a few bits of book news. The new Janet and Colin Bord book on contactees has just arrived (review next issue). Also out at £5.95 is a paperback reprint of 'Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved' from Robert Hale. By next issue, copies of my book examining the Bentwaters case a decade on (with new data and offering my own thoughts on the events) will be available in the US. Entitled 'From out of the Blue' it is released by Inner Light in New York at \$10.95. Finally the book by Peter Hough and myself on the search for extraterrestrial life told from many perspectives ('Looking for the Aliens') is released by Cassell in hardback on 6 February.

MEDIA MATTERS

A look at UFOs in the public eye



Tim Good's book inevitably kicked up a fuss in the media. The Daily Express (12 Jul) found it 'curious' that Lord Hill-Norton believes in the cover up. They then proceeded to try and psychoanalyse what they called a 'plainly daft' book - without, of course, making any substantial effort to say why - except that UFOs were part of the 'expectation of a saviour' syndrome. Such blanket dismissals serve no purpose, in my view.

The Sunday Telegraph (7 Jul) actually built their comment round it with the title 'why credulity springs eternal', calling the book an 'extraordinary compendium of tall UFO stories' and proding and poking with needless jibes like 'parts of it are quite funny, though the author seems unaware of it'. Of course, in addition the article goes on to presume that ET UFOlogy IS UFOlogy. Regardless of how valid Tim Good's point of view may be this conspiracy (for it is no less than that) by the media is outrageous. They wantonly con the public into the view that if you are a UFOlogist you believe in spaceships and aliens, if you say you are a UFOlogist who doesn't believe these things then you can't be - you have to be called a sceptic or debunker - reinforcing this phoney illusion. Why???

Tim Good's agent, Andrew Lownie, felt sufficiently annoyed at the Telegraph's fairly pathetic attack to reply (14 Jul) pointing out the masses of documents proving government interest (ah, yes, but in what?), reeling off a few names and -O of course - (being a literary agent) wasting no opportunity to tell the half million readers that despite the rotten review Tim's book was unsurprisingly 'in the best seller lists'.

Despite such reviews, Alien Liaison did also make it to the 'Arts Review' section of the Sunday Sport (7 Jul) - perhaps a candidate for the contradiction in journalistic terms of the year (the Sport having anything to do with art, that is). With a few pictures of butchered cows they focused on the cattle mutilation section in their inimitable style ('cattle rustlers from outer space are slicing off cows' bottoms').

Woman's Realm (25 Jun) had a fairly rambling rose of a piece on UFOs which interviewed witnesses like Elsie Oakensen ('I do believe that any (healing) power I have may well come from my encounter with the UFO') and a very brief (so as to be almost misleading) sentence from me about circles. Despite the feature apparently previewing the BUFORA conference Tony Dodd of YUFOS was given more space to pontificate about alien abductions and to claim that 'craft' have been seen hovering over fields when circles appeared (dates, times, places and full details please!)

The Sun (29 May) also had a tale to tell with 'Day a beach alien got randy on the sandy' - the allegedly true yarn from actress Shelley Winters about a 'red coloured creature' that came from the sea and mauled her with his webbed hands - followed by (under 18's please do not read on) 'just one big orgasm'. This all took place on the beach at Malibu in California - where anything can happen after a few pina colodas, so I'm told. Shelley thought the alien was a Japanese frogman apparently, but he wrote a three line message in the sand and went back into the sea. This was 50 years ago and she hasn't seen or heard from him since.

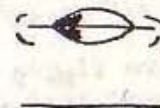
A free copy of issue 5 of 'UFO News File' awaits those who come up with the most appropriate suggestion for this (short) message in the sand!

Finally, the Sunday Mail (14 Jul) report on 'George Rawcliffe' (?) - who is 'head of Blackpool and Fylde College management studies department' as well as being a 'noted UFO expert'. Reputedly he has written '30 books on UFOs' (can anybody name one?) and has now contacted Whitehall and the UN in order to urge them to set up the 'World Alien Space Contact Unit'. This is because he has concluded that the Loch Ness Monster is really an alien put in a UFO and sent to make a soft landing on the Loch where 'she' periodically surfaces to observe the goings on of humanity. Now you know.

Which makes at least as much sense as several recent desperate letters from an obviously sincere lady in the US who believes every song David Bowie has ever written is about her life. Bowie's management team don't seem to want to know but if any Bowie-philes wish to write, let me know.

BRIEF CASES

Some current investigations



American Reports:

Miami Advice... Ms R relates an amazing array of tales which began when she met Edison (yes THE Edison) when she was a child. Soon afterwards (circa 1942) a purple light appeared in her bedroom and moved up and down the wall. She jumped out of bed and switched the room light on, which promptly exploded. It had apparently blown a fuse.

Years later she married a West Point officer and graduated from Miami University. It was now 1953 and she was blinded by staring at the sun convinced it was 'coming apart'. She had to be dragged away but her retina was badly burned. After many sightings of LITS she finally saw a 'Picasso style' UFO quite recently in Fort Lauderdale. This was a 'big black rectangle' which drifted across the sky.

Ms R now wishes to explain that she has learned the UFOs are piloted by aliens from a planet called Phaeton which was in our solar system but blew itself up in a nuclear holocaust. The debris struck Mars, producing the canals.

UFO at the Pentagon... Joe Dormer passes on a case from Mrs X whose husband in July 1952 was an air force officer at the Pentagon. They lived at Arlington, Virginia, near Washington DC. After a party both they and friends were on the patio of their apartment on a warm evening. Mrs X wandered off on her own for a while and sat drinking her 'highball' when she felt 'strange' as if someone was 'aware of her'. Looking up she saw a 'mellow white' searchlight-like light without a beam. 'You could feel the silence from it,' she said. The others were brought and all guests saw it. After this they held regular skywatches and did see two balls of light rising in an arc over the State Capitol building, lining up on top of each other and then flying off. They interpreted this as a 'farewell' gesture.

They shouldn't be able to fly... That's what Mr H of Washington State says about the 'aircraft' he claims to have seen on numerous occasions between 1957 (in a small town south of San Diego, California) and 1988 (near Spokane in Washington). He claims the craft he has seen on all these occasions were the same and completely lacked any wings or stabilisers that might let them fly. He further alleges that he has worked at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, during which time he met UFOs 'numerous' times. He has also been contacted by radio (indecipherable noises) and saw lights flashing in the sky which he assumes was a message but has no idea what it meant. This came one night when he was in a wood shining a flashlight at the sky hoping to 'send messages to outer space'.

FROM THE DAWN OF THE UFO ERA

Case 4704 August 1947 08.00 Sheffield, South Yorks Roy Sandbach C3-5

Mr B - now retired - was a teenager when he saw his first UFO. It was a red light in the morning sky - like the sun but in the WEST. It appeared to head towards him and a man grabbed his arm, possibly because he was wearing an Air Training Corps uniform. Mr B was asked what it was ('a plane on fire or some new weapon?'). As they walked it appeared to rise upward and grow in size, but after 4 minutes it disappeared whilst obscured behind trees and never reappeared. Perhaps it was some sort of sundog reflection? On 1 November 1968 at Penistone Mr B also describes a moving white light which was clearly a satellite. Finally (case 6918) on 25 April 1969 Mr B was at Gleadless (Sheffield) in his car with his wife when a bright green light sped through the sky at 21.20 pm. It passed THROUGH low cloud but left a glow on them as it moved above (unusual for the most obvious solution - a fireball meteor, as this would presumably be much higher than the cloud banks). After 10 seconds or so it was lost in the NW. Subsequent reports from dozens of witnesses in the area DID bring official claims this WAS just a meteor, but Mr B says; 'I have yet to believe something like that.'

AN ALIEN JAYWALKER

Case 75-170 November 1975 05.00 Penkridge, Staffs BUFORA B7-5

R was then aged 19 or 20 and on a trip in a truck with his brother. On an unlit stretch of the M6 motorway heading north their headlights caught a

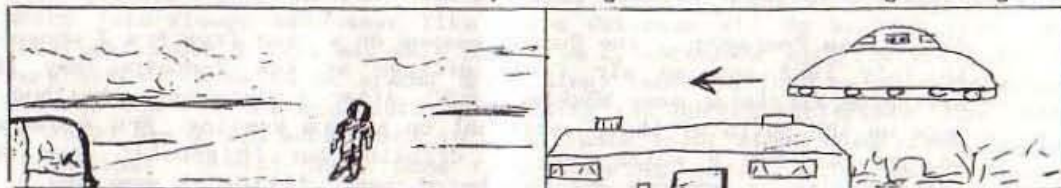


figure running ONTO the road from the bushes. R braked sharply but in the headlights they both saw a small 'being', no taller than 4 feet and a few inches ('about the size of a 7 year old child') which was dressed in a tightly fitting all over silver suit. The thing darted back into the bushes before they could stop on the hard shoulder. R got out but there was no sign of an accident, broken down vehicle or farmhouse from where a prankster might have emerged. No details of the figure were seen as the head was masked by a balaclava type helmet fitting. Around the same period - at home in West Bromwich - R was awoken at 00.05 by his father and from the front bedroom they both watched a 'saucer turned upside down with a dome on top' drift slowly south to north above the rooftops. It was completely silent. On the flattened base were lights of various colours which were carried around the object in a clockwise motion (as viewed from above). The entire passage of the object took some 12 seconds after both reached the window, although the father had seen it previously, of course. A net curtain was on the window and R lifted this for a clearer view towards the end of the sighting. On doing so he says that he noted that there were two or three rectangular windows inset into the dome. Light was coming from these and two figures appeared to be silhouetted. Although it was difficult to get a good view he says they seemed to have long blond or golden hair. The object finally disappeared out of sight behind houses but R was left with a legacy of deep interest in UFOs which has persisted now many years.

CASE 9031 26 September 1990 08.35 Alsager, Staffs BUFORA D5-4

N was travelling to school when he saw a 'moving vehicle' in the sky. It was 'light blackish metallic and very aerodynamic'. An orange light came from the side. Nobody seemed to be looking up at it from the streets, then he realised he was late and hurried on - leaving it there. A month later, 27 October, at 20.30 he saw a 'red glow' in the sky from a field. This slowly drifted out of sight. The same night his mother claims she heard an odd humming sound. The only curious thing N recalls from his past was in 1984 (when he was 9). He was sleeping with a friend and they were reading motorcycle magazines around midnight in the bedroom when they heard a deep humming noise. Suddenly the entire room lit up bright white for about 8 seconds. The noise moved away and the room returned to normal. N did not cooperate further in investigation and the initial sighting, at least, seems likely to have been an aircraft looking strange in reflected sunlight; although that is really just a guess given the scanty detail and the 1984 experience is, of course, rather more interesting.

MIDLANDS INVASION SEASON 1991

CASE 9105 22 May 1991 23.40 Nottingham area E5-5

At present I can only summarise press stories, but I hope that Anthony James of EMUFORA, who was cited as investigating, will submit a full report for a future issue. Initial reports (Nottingham Post 24 May) told of a 'low flying, brightly lit but almost silent' object seen over Gedling and Arnold by separate witnesses. A woman in Gedling described 'elongated triangles resembling Concorde' seen from her bedroom. She told her husband and he saw them too. They DID hear an engine noise as the lights passed overhead and also saw red and green navigation type lights behind the white. 15 minutes later a couple driving home in Arnold saw 'two diamond shaped lights...no more than a few feet apart. There was a low humming or pumping noise. The lights were much bigger than those of any aircraft.' The Post quoted Tony Dodd of YUFOS as saying it was all panning out into 'something quite spectacular' and the speed ruled out 'any aircraft we've got'; although I must admit my immediate thoughts were of the infamous aircraft refuelling exercises of the past where the mass of lights were on aircraft FAR higher than witnesses guesstimated (hence the near silence, odd speed and estimated huge size, based on common misperception effects of misjudging the height). Anthony James appeared a few days later (29 May) appealing for data and he stated: 'It was a large object that met up with several smaller ones before disappearing' (another comment that MIGHT support the refuelling exercise theory). On 4 June another big article featured a progress report from EMUFORA. Cases had flooded in from a 20 mile radius of Nottingham. Generally, according to Anthony James, 'it was a mass of lights, very bright white lights and many green and red lights.' TWO objects were now believed, both of which emitted a 'deep humming drone'. They were seen between 23.40 and 00.40. Indeed by the last article (Post, 5 June) there were now '50 reports' and Anthony James was clearing trying all leads to find an answer, including hopefully checking the RAF or USAF refuelling option. Of some importance here was a letter the Post carried on 29 May from a woman in Bulwell who insisted she saw the phenomenon but it was definitely 'not UFOs'. As the lights passed overhead they were clearly seen by she and a friend as 'two aircraft flying close together...presumably they were military aircraft on night-time manoeuvres.' The case proceeds.

CASE 9106 10 June 1991 Woodford, Cheshire Roy Sandbach B3-6

Two men were cleaning water tanks at the airfield (which builds aircraft) on a dull day with low cloud. One man glanced upward and called attention to a small white ball which sped across the field at right angles to the runway on a path from SE to NW. There were a whole spate of similar sightings in the north west that week and speculation about toy balloons seems hard to equate with their great speed. A man in Wythenshawe, Manchester (interestingly very near Ringway Airport) video filmed one of the white balls speeding upwards and its velocity was almost rocket like, SEEMING to pass through cloud at a couple of thousand feet altitude within 3 seconds, probably ruling out the runaway balloon hypothesis. Any ideas?

An anonymous report (no address to facilitate follow up) was received from Armagh, Northern Ireland, describing a sighting at 22.15 on 30 May 1991. The witness says he (she) was walking dogs by football pitches when a 'warm wind' brushed past and a 'green glowing object' (drawn to look like a rugby or American football) hovered above for a second, then 'moved at amazing speed to another position above the goalposts'. It then flew off over a farm. The witness will not talk publicly for fear of ridicule but wished to record details. They are 28 and work at a shop in Ardmore.

Meteorologist Dave Reynolds has supplied some comments on a case in the February NUN. He says the object which paced an aircraft in the USA (pp 9-10) could have been 'a very rare optical phenomenon, or a more common one viewed through an image distorting medium, eg aircraft window or parcel of air of differing density... Ball lightning has been known to pace high and fast flying aircraft - being 'locked onto' the plane in some electro-magnetic way'. So he suggests that a plasma vortex might possibly have the same capability; although many questions remain.

CASE HISTORIES



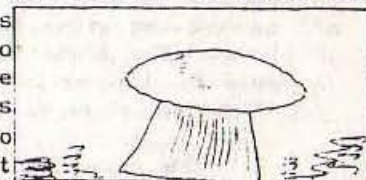
RENDLESHAM REVISITED

Report by Jenny Randles

This is a case which was phoned through to the BBC TV after my appearance on Daytime UK in April. The witness did NOT wish to feature on the programme herself but I interviewed her subsequently because there was some connection with the infamous events in December 1980 at Bentwaters.

Mrs W lived at Woodbridge, Suffolk, in March 1974. After midnight one bright morning she took her dog out past their tennis courts for a bedtime constitutional when the late movie had ended. Suddenly Mrs W got the feeling she was being watched. Looking up she saw an oval object with a searchlight beam projecting from the underside towards the ground. It hovered and pulsed in mind air and the beam itself had a solid appearance rather than that of a ray of light. It cut off suddenly mid-stream. There were no normal navigation lights such as seen on the many aircraft from the local bases.

Mrs W felt very strange - 'as if it knew what I was thinking. There was some form of communication, like telepathy. It was very strong. After it had gone I WANTED it to return so badly.' She decided to fetch her daughter - who was in the house and Mrs W believes this was a mistake. 'I think it decided I was too much trouble then. Had I not gone in it would have stayed.' As it was, on their return, the object was moving away. It did so by retracting the beam into the main body and then drifting away sideways. It vanished to the SE towards the coast. She had no knowledge of other UFO sightings in the area; although heard of the Bentwaters case years later.



After talking to her mother for advice Mrs W called RAF Bawdsey - the secret base in the area which is at the heart of many odd things that have gone on. she asked if they had tracked anything, but they said no. However, they were intrigued by her story and went to get a Flight Lieutenant to the phone who then asked her many questions. Presumably a form was filled in and sent to the MoD in London, but Mrs W never heard anything further.

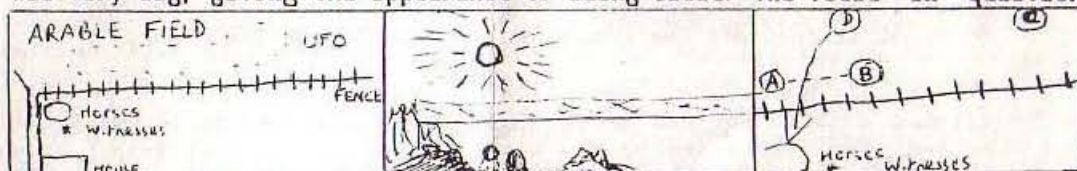
HORSE SENSE

Report by Jenny Randles

This is another case which came via the same source as above. Information has been kindly supplied by the witnesses to flesh out details.

It was November 1980 and the location was Westoning in Bedfordshire - not far east of the location of the car stop case which occurred this year. It was a cold, clear night and Mrs T (then 17) and her mother were in the fields of their farm feeding horses with hay when they spotted a light in a neighbours arable field. This was separated from them by a fence.

The light was white and round rather like a floodlight, in fact. It was very big, giving the appearance of being close. The field in question



was very roughly ploughed and the speed and smoothness with which the light moved convinced the women that it had to be something airborne and could not be simply connected to an object (like a tractor) which was moving across the ground. It seemed to explore the field for some minutes, moving back and forth, and then turned to shine right at them. 'It was like daylight' at this point. Looking straight at it, all that you could see 'was this round light, like looking into a giant car headlight.' But it hurt the eyes to do so.

There were four horses in a group and they did not seem to be spooked by the light; although they clearly saw it and stared at it, whilst continuing to chew their hay! Mrs T and her mother were more concerned and discussed it animatedly trying to work out what it could be. Despite the night being very still there was absolutely no sound, a further reason why they feel they can rule out ideas such as a lighted farm machine.

After some minutes the light vanished, but reappeared further across the field. It then began to 'scan' across great distances - vanishing and seconds later reappearing some hundreds of yards away. This behaviour caused the witnesses to become quite frightened and quickly return to the house. The light FOLLOWED them and was so bright it shone onto the back wall of the building. It remained there for some time and only at 03.00 (two hours after first sighting) did they notice it had gone for good.

The next day they talked to the farmer but he had no explanation. He had seen nothing but checked his ploughed field. There was no obvious sign of intrusion.

We might speculate about luminous owls or other phenomena but the brilliance here seems to rule that out. I don't have any other logical answer to offer for such a long duration event. Mrs T would love to have an explanation - so can anyone come up with one?

FOREVER BLOWING BUBBLES

Report by Jenny Randles

A case with some similarities to the one above, except that this occurred in daylight. Mr W first wrote to BUFORA but I interviewed him about his experience given that it also has more than a passing resemblance to some video film obtained via security cameras at a Cheshire shopping mall this spring and which has been subjected to intense investigation during the past few months.

It was 26 August 1989 at approximately 19.15. There was thin, high cloud and an easterly wind of some 20 mph. The location was a sloping set of fields outside a nature reserve at Sedgeley in the West Midlands, between Wolverhampton and Dudley. The reserve actually closed at 19.00 but Mr W was, as customary, exercising his dog. It was then that he saw a 'soap bubble' just larger than a golf ball which seemed to have a white feather trapped inside. It came from his rear (ie FROM the east) and drifted close by about 12 feet off the ground as if propelled by the wind.

Mildly curious as there seemed nobody around to 'blow' it, Mr W climbed a stile but did not go into an uncultivated field which contained horses. The bubble was by now way over by them, still intact, around 120 feet away, as if surveying them. It swooped down, as if caught in a downdraft, and then up again, appearing to maintain this 'monitor'. This went on for 2 or 3 minutes but the horses took no obvious notice.

But then the 'bubble' turned and began to battle RIGHT INTO the strong wind - heading straight back in his direction. He was now seriously doubting his original evaluation and concluded it must be a remote control model. Mr W began looking all over to find anyone who might be controlling such a thing. There was nobody. The object was now moving just a foot off the ground in a dead straight course for him - no weaving or bobbing. It seemed to have purpose. He was sure it would pass THROUGH the wire fence to reach his field. But instead it climbed up and went OVER the fence. It was now within 24 inches of his body and he could see it perfectly as it literally looped round him and STOPPED DEAD in its tracks. 'It was looking at me - surveying me - there's no two ways about it.'

He was not afraid, but could now tell it was something quite weird. It had an oily surface like a bubble and was opaque with a white residue like cotton wool or polystyrene. There were no antennae or protruberances, but at this very close range he did see a dark patch on the surface. Bending forward he could see it must have been 'my own image reflecting on the surface'. Mr W was tempted to lean forward and 'burst' the bubble - as he could easily have attempted, but it responded to this unconscious movement and he saw it visibly 'kick' into gear and accelerate away to the east, covering around 30 or 40 feet within a second.

Mr W has lived in the area many years and never seen anything like it. He waited a year before reporting in case someone should come forward and report an experimental remote control device. Nobody has and although he goes there every night in summer he has never seen it again. His only thought is that it might be some 'military surveillance device gone a little wild,' but realises this theory takes some swallowing.

Frankly, unless its a very unusual UAP I don't have a clue. Do you?

SOMETHING IN THE AIR (PART 2)

Report by Jenny Randles

The press reports of the incident were limited. Peter Spencer in the Manchester Evening News (22 Feb) had reported that 'a UFO lit up the Greater Manchester skyline but there was no sign of little green men'. They added that the crew of a Manx Airlines plane had seen it on arrival at Ringway and one theory was that it was satellite debris, but cited the MoD as calling it 'just one of those mysteries.' The Metro News that day ridiculously suggested that 'a close encounter of the third kind is baffling Manchester boffins', noting that the CAA at the airport were filing a report with the MoD and quoting me as (wickedly) saying that the sightings 'appear to be consistent with what we've seen before from space debris re-entering the earths atmosphere.' Which remains quite true.

However, my securing of the report to the MoD by staff at Ringway was important. This was actually a teletype from RAF West Drayton to the MoD in Whitehall dated 07.30 on the morning after the night before. It timed the sighting as 19.19, duration 5 seconds and gave bearings as 200-220 degrees at elevation 15-25 degrees from horizontal. The UFO was said to be 'one object with a line of light inside in a broad band, very bright, changing from green to yellow to white.' This account came from 'four air traffic controllers from Manchester Airport whilst in control tower all very experienced, not observed such sighting before'. The Manx Airlines aircrew were mentioned only in passing, but it was noted that the airport checked with Knutsford Police in a (fruitless) attempt to find a solution.

Fortunately my carefully restrained letter to the ATC at the airport produced an interesting response. One of the four officers concerned PHONED me on 23 May. He was not prepared to put anything in writing or give his name but did want to set down the facts for the record. He had been an officer for 35 years and confirmed that they did NOT track the light on radar. However, after initially not taking much note of it, the Manx Airline crews report changed that. They were going off duty and did NOT wish to file an official report but agreed to let the ATC officers mention it.

The officer confirmed to me that the most significant fact about the aircrew (2 men aboard an ATP turboprop that was inbound from the Isle of Man) was that they saw the UFO on TWO different occasions. The first was a bluish streak in the sky to the south, parallel with them and similar to the 'big' one. This was at approximately 19.07 whilst the plane was at 10,000 feet over Wallasey on the Wirral. They did not report it over the radio to Ringway. The second coincided with all the other sightings WHEN the plane had just touched down. They were actually taxiing in and it was so bright it was seen THROUGH the powerful runway lights.

As for what the controller saw, he at first suggested an aurora but then realised it was in the southern, not northern, sky. He says that it resembled an electric glow arcing in the sky and tried to suggest something connected with a power station he had heard was having problems in Devon! This seems highly improbable given the huge distance involved (250 miles). Overall they had no real solution to offer, except it was 'one of those things'. Perhaps there was indeed something odd in the air that night, but it was surely a natural event within the atmosphere of some description.



For those looking for something to do during the autumn the new BUFORA lecture series is here at the London Business School (near Baker St tube, starts 6.30 pm). On Saturday 7 September scientist Stan Conway will relate his ideas about the energy behind UFOs and on 5 October Norman Oliver will talk about UFOs and coincidence. If you prefer a night in front of the TV you should check out two new BBC videos of the 1980 and 1981 TV films 'The Flipside of Dominic Hyde' and 'Another Flip for Dominic' starring Peter Firth. In NUN way back when I raved about them, but if you missed the shows when they aired DONT miss these videos. UFOs are an incidental part of the plot, but they are a clever view of the UFOs as time travelers theory.

NUFON Regional Groups

SPI	(W. Scotland)	14 McKinlay Cres, Alloa, Clackmannanshire	FK10 3RX
SRUFO	(E. Scotland)	129 Langton View, East Calder, Wst Lothian	EH53 0RE
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
HSWL	(Nth Lancs)	63 Devonshire Dr, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancs	BB 5 5RH
FUFOIG	(Fylde Coast)	293 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool, Lancashire	FY 2 0TW
MUFORA*	(Cheshire)	6 Silsden Ave, Lowton, Lancashire	WA 3 1EN
CONNECT	(Wharfedale)	33 Green Lane, Aaddingham, Ilkley, W. Yorks	LS29 0Jn
IUN	(Yorkshire)	1 Woodhall Dr, Healey Lane, Batley, W. Yks	WF17 7SW
CUFOSC	(Shropshire)	117 Earle Street, Crewe, Cheshire	CW 1 2SG
SSPR	(Derbyshire)	17 Old Quarry Ave, Vales, Sheffield	S 31 8RW
SKYSCAN	(Staffs)	116 Repton Rd, Burton on Trent, Staffs	DE11 7AE
EMUFORA	(Notts)	8 Roosa Close, Bulwell, Nottingham	NG 6 7BL
PARASEARCH	(W. Midlands)	79 Sandringham Rd, Stourbridge, W. Mid	DY 8 5HL
LUFOIC	(E. Midlands)	12 Unicorn C/var, Unicorn St, Thurmaston	LE 4 8AX
NUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby, Northants	NN17 2EF